It is not acceptable that the legal system serves only those who can afford it.

1988-1989 ANNUAL REPORT

LEGAL SERVICES SOCIETY

of British Columbia

90-07056/

Mandate

The Legal Services Society was established on October 1, 1979, when the provincial legislature unanimously passed the Legal Services Society Act. The Society's mandate is to ensure that:

3. (1) (a) that services ordinarily provided by a lawyer are afforded to individuals who would not otherwise receive them because of financial or other reasons

and

(b) education, advice and information about law are provided for the people of British Columbia

(2) The society shall ensure that legal services are available for a qualifying individual who

(a) is a defendant in criminal proceedings that could lead to his [or her] imprisonment

(b) may be imprisoned or confined through civil proceedings

(c) is or may be a party to a proceeding respecting a domestic dispute that affects his [or her] physical or mental safety or health or that of his [or her] children

or

(d) has a legal problem that threatens

- his [or her] family's physical or mental safety or health
- his [or her] ability to feed, clothe and provide shelter for himself [or herself] and his [or her] dependents
- his [or her] livelihood

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Contents

The Justice Reform Committee was appointed by the provincial government in 1987 to recommend changes that would make the justice system in British Columbia more accessible, understandable, relevant and efficient. The cover quote and all quotations in bold in the Annual Report are taken from this committee's report, *Access to Justice.*

Message from the Chair 4

Client Services
- Legal Aid 6
- Table: The Demand for Legal Aid 7
- Other Client Services 8

Legal Information Services
- Schools Program 9
- Public Legal Education (PLE) 10
- Legal Resource Centre 12

Native Programs 14

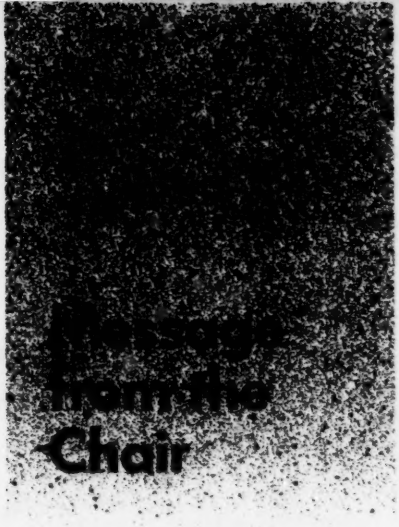
Financial Information 17

List of Offices
- Branch Offices 21
- Community Law Offices 21
- Native Community Law Offices and Funded Friendship Centres 21
- Area Directors 22

The Annual Report was coordinated by Gabriella Moro and Sid Sawyer and word-processed by Anna Bronswyk, the Schools Program secretary.

The Annual Report was produced by Helen Krayenhoff (designer) and Cy-Thea Sand (editor) of the Publications Branch. This document is a summary of Legal Services Society activities for the year 1988-1989.

To obtain a copy of the most recent Annual Report, write to:
Publications Clerk
Legal Services Society
Suite 300
1140 West Pender Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6E 4G1



In B.C., legal rights are empty rights. Rights conferred by the Charter of Rights are rights without remedies because the province is not providing adequate funding for legal aid services. We delivered this message in a brief to the Justice Reform Committee (May 1988), a committee appointed by the provincial government to recommend changes that would make the justice system of B.C. more accessible, equitable and understandable.

Since 1982, when we sustained severe cuts in government funding, we have been losing ground in our struggle to provide equal access to legal services. We welcomed the establishment of the Justice Reform Committee and in our brief to the committee we urged the government to implement the recommendations of the 1984 Task Force on Public Legal Services.

We pointed out that there is strong public support throughout the province for publicly funded legal services and that what was needed was an adequate level of funding to provide services that everyone acknowledges are required. We stated that at the beginning of 1988, legal services for poor people were in worse shape than in 1982.

We were encouraged when the Justice Reform Committee released its report, **Access to Justice,** in November 1988. It recommended that funding be provided to permit the recommendations of the 1984 Attorney General's Task Force on Public Legal Services to be implemented as soon as possible.

We also welcome the recommendations of the committee to expand the use of plain language in legal documents, to give increasing attention to legal education in the schools and to provide provincewide legal information services and reforms in the justice system for native people.

We welcome the attorney general's public commitment to implement the reforms recommended by the Justice Reform Committee and to increase funding to the Legal Services Society so we can improve public legal services in British Columbia.

Throughout the past year we have continued our close working relationship, through the Legal Aid Liaison Committee, with the British Columbia Law Society and the British Columbia Branch of the Canadian Bar Association. Members of this committee have met frequently with the attorney general and his senior officials to urge an increase in the level of government support for the Legal Services Society.

With the assistance of the attorney general, we also met with the Cabinet Committee on Social Policy to ensure that senior government ministers are aware of important issues affecting legal aid and legal education in the province.

We were pleased to announce during the year that increased financial support from the attorney general's ministry permitted us to open full-time offices in Terrace, Maple Ridge and Cranbrook. The Terrace office opened in February 1988 and will be operated by the L'ax Ghels Community Law Centre Society through a contract with us.

Offices in Maple Ridge and Cranbrook were closed during the restraint period of 1983. These offices are expected to re-open during 1989 and will be administered by local boards in those communities.

We are also pleased to announce the restoration of some services in the family law area. Effective April 1, 1989 additional funding will permit us to:

- provide legal aid to financially eligible people in all custody matters if the applicant for assistance has a good case
- provide legal aid in urgent custody situations to people who fall outside our usual financial eligibility standards, but who are unable to pay privately for the cost of a lawyer

Although we continue to be concerned about the low level of the tariff paid to lawyers to do legal aid cases, we were able to announce a 10 per cent increase in the tariff effective October 1, 1988.

In response to the report of the Justice Reform Committee, the government has committed itself to provide additional funding in 1989 and 1990. That funding will permit the following changes:

- a five per cent increase in the tariff beginning October 1, 1989
- the expansion of duty counsel beginning October 1, 1989 to all criminal courts and an increase in duty counsel fees from $30.00 per hour to $40.00 per hour
- the implementation of a flexible eligibility test for all family matters and criminal matters that the Society is currently covering beginning April 1, 1990
- an increase of $500,000.00 to permit the Society to provide more services in the civil (non-family) area, beginning April 1, 1990

In spite of these favourable developments, there remains much to be done to provide equal access to the justice system for the people of B.C.

Some particular areas of concern are the low level of the tariff paid to lawyers who take on legal aid cases, and the absence of adequate resources to provide assistance to people involved in debt litigation, hearings before administrative tribunals in workers' compensation matters, welfare appeals and refugee claims.

We also believe that there must be steps taken to ensure that the justice system is responsive to the needs of native people. Those initiatives must be developed through extensive consultation with the native community and should promote, where possible, native autonomy in the delivery of legal services.

The 1988/1989 year has seen some significant improvements in the services that we have been able to provide. However, as the Justice Reform Committee Report, **Access to Justice,** states: "Our legal system falls short of providing equal access to all citizens". A lot of work still needs to be done to improve legal services in British Columbia.

A. G. Henderson
Chair, 1988 - 1989

Board of Directors 1988/1989*

A. G. Henderson, *Chair*
The Honourable Bruce Cohen, *Vice-Chair*
The Honourable J. C. Bouck
Her Honour Judge Loretta Chaperon
His Honour Judge William Kitchen
Gerald Kambeitz
Mark McEwan
Terry LaLiberte
Kathy Marshall
Jeanne Watchuk
Charlotte Smith
Len Doust
Lois Hollstedt
His Honour Judge William Ostler

* The Legal Services Society Act provides for the appointment of 14 members to the Board of Directors, seven appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council and seven appointed by the Law Society of British Columbia.

Our system of justice has been evolving for centuries and only in the last 30 years have we attempted to make it available to all.

Legal Aid

What is legal aid?

Legal aid is a service for low-income people in B.C. who have an urgent legal problem.

Who can get legal aid?

In B.C., under the Legal Services Society Act, you have a right to legal help for serious legal problems if you cannot afford a lawyer.

You can get a lawyer or paralegal to represent you if you cannot afford a lawyer, and if your problem is covered by legal aid.

If you are not eligible for representation, the staff of the offices around the province can often give you advice to enable you to take legal steps on your own.

What were the financial rules in 1988/1989?

To qualify for representation for legal aid in 1988/1989, you had to have an income below the Statistics Canada poverty guidelines.

What problems were covered in 1988/1989?

If you were financially eligible, you could get help for:

- a criminal charge which might lead to imprisonment
- urgent family problems
- urgent legal problems that jeopardize your livelihood, health, safety, sustenance or shelter
- problems under the B.C. Human Rights Act

Muriel Fenton.

Dawson Creek Legal Services Branch Office.

How does someone get help?

To get help, you can go to one of three types of offices: a Legal Services Society branch office, community law office or area director. Branch offices and community law offices have staff lawyers and paralegals. Area directors are lawyers in private practice in small communities who act as agents of the Legal Services Society to take family and criminal legal aid applications.

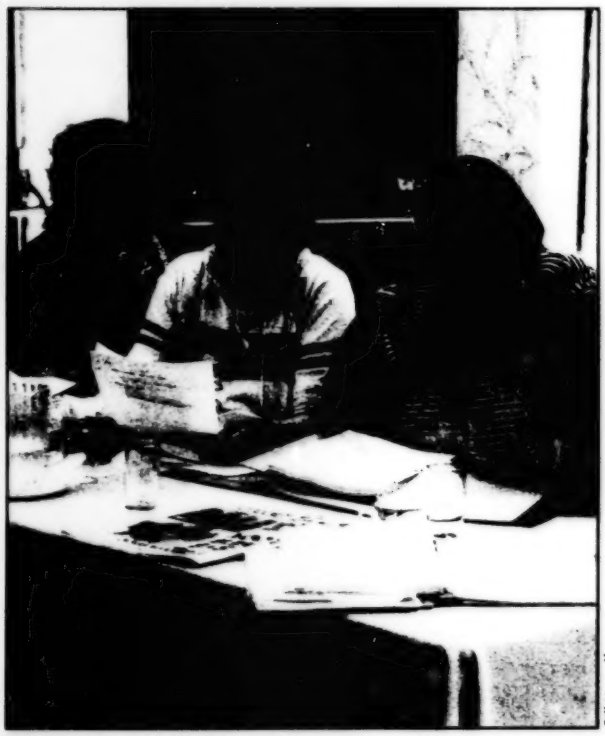
You fill out an application in the office. The office staff will assess your financial eligibility and type of problem in order to approve your request for legal aid services. If you are not eligible, the office staff will explain what other help is available in the community, or provide information pamphlets to help you proceed on your own.

A list of all the branch offices, community law offices and area directors are at the back of this Year in Review. If an office location has changed, look through the Yellow Pages under "Lawyers" for an advertisement entitled **Legal Problems?** *Legal Services Directory.*

Who helps?

If someone is approved for help with a criminal, family or Human Rights Act problem, the office sends them to a lawyer in private practice. The lawyer acts for the client as he or she would for any client, and sends the bill to the Legal Services Society.

If someone has a problem affecting livelihood, health, safety, sustenance or shelter, the branch offices or community law offices staff will help them. The office staff handle cases on Workers' Compensation, UIC, and MSSH appeals, foreclosure defences, refugee work, etc. Area directors do not take on these kind of cases. If the office staff do not have time to help, they look for a lawyer in private practice who will take the case on without charge.



Bill Metcalf

Criminal Law Workshop for Legal Information Counsellors and Paralegals

The Demand for Legal Aid

1988/1989

Type of legal problem	Total number of applications	Number accepted	Percentage accepted
Criminal	37,967	28,628	75.4%
Family	22,809	12,405	54.4%
Other civil*	21,113	5,045	23.9%
Total	81,889	46,078	56.3%

1987/1988

Type of legal problem	Total number of applications	Number accepted	Percentage accepted
Criminal	36,533	27,310	74.8%
Family	22,367	11,361	50.8%
Other civil*	21,478	4,816	22.4%
Total	80,378	43,487	54.1%

* This includes legal problems related to pensions, workers' compensation, income assistance, unemployment insurance, and foreclosure matters.

How many people were represented last year?

In 1988/1989, there were more than 81,000 applications for legal representation. The table above shows how many of those applicants got service, depending on the type of problem they had when they came into the office.

Where are the deficiencies in the service?

As you can see from the table, 75.4 per cent of the people with a criminal law problem got help. Half the people with a family law problem got help. But only 23.9 per cent of people with other kinds of legal problems got representation. This is because there is not enough staff to provide these services to everyone who needs them.*

* Effective April 6, 1989, Legal Services Society extended its family coverage and eligibility. All low income people with a custody or access dispute can get representation. Any low income person not on income assistance can get help with a maintenance application. And if the case will be a protracted one (contested custody, apprehensions, restraining orders) the client's financial situation is judged on a flexible eligibility test—can the person afford counsel without impairing his or her ability to feed, clothe and house themselves and their dependents?

Other Client Services

Duty counsel

Duty counsel are lawyers available in the courts to advise accused people held in custody. The duty counsel lawyer gives advice about charges, court procedures and the right to apply for legal aid.

Appeals

The Legal Services Society funds appeal cases if the applicant is financially eligible and the case is likely to succeed. In 1988/1989 there were 400 appeals authorized by the Legal Services Society.

Family Maintenance Program

During 1988, two new programs were initiated by the provincial government. The Family Maintenance Enforcement program, under the Family Maintenance Enforcement Act, provides automatic enforcement of maintenance orders to anyone who files their order with the program. And MSSH now has authority under the GAIN Amendment Act to get, vary and enforce maintenance orders on behalf of people who are receiving income assistance.

Legal Service Society has been working closely with these programs to ensure the delivery of family legal services to low income people.

The Private Bar

Lawyers from the private bar are retained by the Society to represent eligible clients in the criminal and family law areas. The lawyers are paid a fee for service that is less than what they charge in their private practice. Because the legal aid tariff remains low, private bar lawyers continue to subsidize the legal aid service.

Without the willingness of the bar across the province to take legal aid tariff cases, and to take some other cases for free, the legal aid system could not function.

1988/1989 Highlights

Bill Metcalf

Secretary/Legal Assistant Workshop.

Eligibility and Coverage

With the expansion of coverage in the area of family law and the reintroduction of the flexible eligibility guidelines for some cases (effective April 1989), it is expected that more clients will seek assistance from legal aid.

The changes in the law in the area of enforcement of family maintenance has resulted in more people seeking legal assistance for family problems.

New Offices

The Board of Directors approved the reopening of offices in Maple Ridge and Cranbrook closed in 1982—1983 due to restraint. These openings begin a partial restoration of previously existing services. The type of office for each location is being planned in consultation with the community.

Refugee Determination Cases

In 1988—1989, the federal government introduced a new system for determining the status of people entering Canada as refugees. The refugee determination process has two hearings. The federal government pays for counsel at the first hearing, but not at the second.

Currently the Legal Services Society does not have enough staff to provide assistance at the second refugee hearings. The bar has given free services to some of the claimants, but there are many refugee applicants who appear without representation.

Legal Information Services

> . . . initiatives should be taken . . . to ensure that teachers have the information, textbooks and other resources they require to enable them to educate children about our legal institutions and justice system.

People need legal information for a variety of reasons: to exercise their rights, to assume their responsibilities, to recognize when they have a legal problem and to get help in order to solve a problem. The Legal Services Society provides a broad range of legal information services for British Columbians.

Individuals can get legal information by calling, writing or coming into one of our offices. We also work with teachers, librarians and special needs groups to find out what legal information needs exist, and to get the information out to the people who want it.

Our *Publications Catalogue* has a complete listing of print materials available from the Legal Services Society. Free copies of the catalogue may be obtained by writing to: Publications Clerk, Legal Services Society, Suite 300—1140 West Pender Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6E 4G1.

The three programs for the delivery of legal information services are the **Schools Program,** the **Public Legal Education Program** and the **Legal Resource Centre.**

Schools Program

The purpose of the Schools Program is to promote education about the law. Our main audience is British Columbia secondary school teachers and students. The major activities of our program include:

- maintaining a link with educational and legal organizations and government departments to support and develop law- related education
- publishing *Legal Perspectives,* a bi-monthly magazine that provides B.C. teachers with up-to-date information about legal issues and about resources that are available
- publishing resource materials with the idea that teachers will be more likely to include the law and the justice system in their courses if we provide them with appealing material
- presenting workshops on a variety of legal topics

1988/89 Schools Program Highlights

Law-related Education

The schools program staff participated in the development of the new Law 12 curriculum and will be assisting in the implementation process as well as developing new teacher resource materials.

A unit on resource law is being developed for the new Geography 12 course.

The schools program staff helped to organize a national law-related education conference held in Vancouver in June, 1988.

Publications

In response to teachers' suggestions, the themes for the five issues of *Legal Perspectives* this year were: Surviving on your own (legal information for young people); Automobiles and the Law; Libel; Comparative Law: Adoption; Assault.

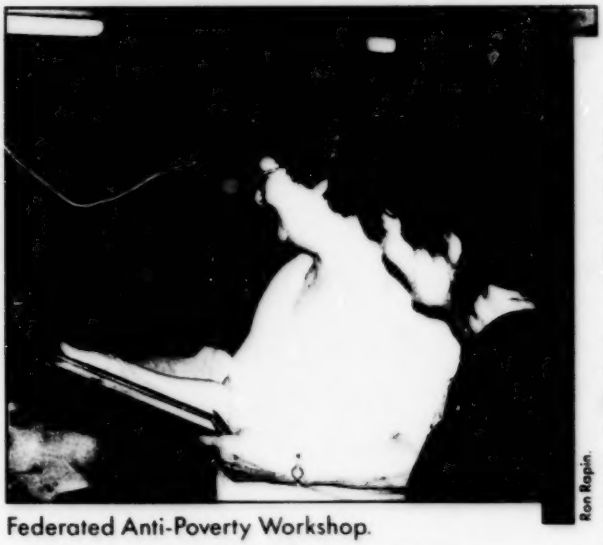
The regular consumer education column in *Legal Perspectives* featured articles on credit and contracts for teens, the perils of household moving, the cost of ignoring your debts, the hidden risk in buying a car, and liens.

A revised edition of *Regina v. Brogue*, a mock-trial kit, was produced. The plot revolves around Tom Brogue, an eighteen-year-old accused of three counts of trafficking and possession under the Narcotic Control Act.

Workshops

Twelve workshops for consumer education, law and social studies teachers and students were presented. The topics included:

- labour law
- legal institutions
- consumer protection legislation
- the Young Offenders Act
- contract law
- the Residential Tenancy Act



Ron Rapin

Federated Anti-Poverty Workshop.

Public Legal Education

A goal of our PLE program at the Legal Services Society is to make legal information accessible to all people in British Columbia. In 1988 the Justice Reform Committee learned that many people are discouraged from using the legal system because it is expensive and complex. One of the committee's conclusions is that people need information about the law that is written in clear, understandable language.

We work with target groups to improve their access to legal services by providing them with self-help materials written in plain English. We also provide advocacy training and workshops for community groups working with particular target groups. We help community groups develop programs for their members that encourage an understanding and ownership of the law. We also work with people in the justice system to develop programs and policies designed to increase people's access to the legal system in B.C.

1988/1989 Public Legal Education Highlights

Evaluation

We are improving the quality of our publications with an evaluation process that includes consultation with our audience. We have asked target groups to assess our materials and we are incorporating this form of evaluation into our overall publication process.

Plain Language

We submitted recommendations to the Justice Reform Committee on plain language initiatives for the province of B.C. We are pleased that the committee's report, **Access to Justice,** reflects an awareness of the need to make the law accessible through the use of plain language. We are continuing with the development and implementation of a plain language approach within the Legal Services Society itself.

Workshops

Twenty-seven workshops were presented for youth, seniors and citizen advocacy groups covering the topics of unemployment insurance, workers' compensation, welfare law, labour law and the Residential Tenancy Act.

Funded Projects

Thirty-eight community organizations received grants totalling $145,000 to carry out public legal education projects.

Small Claims Clinics

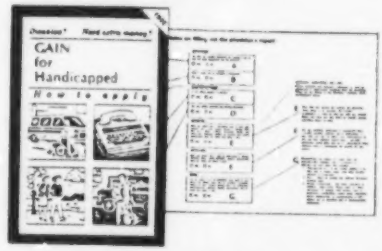
The North Shore Information and Volunteer Centre discovered that many seniors with consumer problems were unable to go to Small Claim Court alone. The language, rules and procedures were just too complex. With a grant of $1,500, the Centre developed a volunteer based program which held regular orientation sessions to introduce 120 potential claimants to S.C.C. The volunteers offered workshops on form and case preparation to people requiring more assistance. In addition, the volunteers did home interviews with fifty disabled, frail or elderly people with consumer problems.

During the course of the project over 60 people were able to resolve their problems. In the evaluation, clients commented on the importance of the help they received and the valuable role the volunteers played helping them rehearse and organize their presentations for the hearing.

A Guide to Getting Your Own Place

The Community Council of Greater Victoria runs programs for street kids and school drop-outs. One of the problems these young people have is renting a place to live. With $400 from the Legal Services Society, the Council published a booklet entitled *Home Sweet Home.* Cartoon illustrated and easy-to-read, this primer sets out basic information and advice for the young, first-time renter, including an explanation of the terms used in rental ads, obligations of landlords and tenants, and a list of local agencies. The booklet was so well received that a second printing was immediately required.

New PLE Publication



The Publications Branch had an opportunity to work directly with a branch office and the community this year, developing a handbook for people with disabilities who want to apply for GAIN for Handicapped. The project was suggested by advocacy workers who noted many cases in which applicants were turned down for handicapped benefits, but succeeded in qualifying on appeal.

GAIN for Handicapped—How to Apply was designed to achieve two major goals—to help applicants apply for benefits, and to alert the medical profession about the importance of the information they provide to MSSH about applicants.

The Branch consulted with advocacy workers, groups for the disabled, doctors, MSSH, and the BC Medical Association in producing the booklet. The result is a readable and practical guide to GAIN for Handicapped, with an insert for clients to give to their doctors when getting a medical form filled out. Community groups have offered strong support in distributing the material and following up on its effects.

British Columbia is a leader in the provision of legal information to its citizens. What is lacking is a provincewide network that would allow anyone easy access to the most appropriate source for their information need

The Legal Resource Centre

The Legal Resource Centre is a law library for the public and for the Legal Services Society staff. The library collection contains 9,000 volumes for reference use as well as a circulating audio-visual collection. Special collections include poverty law, native law, law and the disabled, legal literacy and refugee claimants' country of origin files.

The Legal Resource Centre staff carry out three major tasks:

1. For public libraries around the province, the centre provides funding for the purchase of legal materials, legal reference training for library staff and the quarterly newsletter to alert libraries to changes in legislation, new materials and legal referral services.

2. The centre operates the **Law Line**—a telephone legal information service for the general public. Law Line librarians respond by helping to identify the caller's problem, providing legal information, sending print information, and where necessary, referring the caller to an appropriate agency or lawyer.

3. The staff maintains a law library and provides reference services for the general public, the Society's staff and its funded agencies. The centre has books, pamphlets, magazines, newspaper clippings, films and video cassettes on law and law-related subjects, as well as the B.C. and Canadian Statutes and Regulations.

H. Kreyenhoff.

Legal Services Resource Centre — the Law Line.

1988/1989 Legal Resource Centre Highlights

Automation

The Legal Resource Centre completed a partial conversion from a manual system to an integrated, automated library system. This was done in cooperation with other members of the Government Library Association of B.C.

Grants

Grants totalling $35,000 were given to public libraries representing 89 communities in B.C., to help purchase legal materials.

Law Line

The Legal Resource Centre staff responded to a total of 16,636 inquiries; of these, 15,403 were inquiries through the **Law Line**, an average of 13.7 calls per hour.

Intellectual Freedom

The Legal Resource Centre, with the B.C. Library Association, co-sponsored four regional workshops on intellectual freedom and libraries.

The workshops examined the proposed amendments to the Criminal Code, Bill C-54, which were introduced to deal with pornography. Librarians and library trustees discussed implications for libraries of the proposed changes to federal laws and debated the complex issues of censorship and intellectual freedom in the library setting.

Thelma Gazdik

Federal Statutes Workshop.

Special Collections

This year, the Legal Resource Centre developed two new special collections:

Plain Language and the Law

A collection of articles, books, and reports on the plain language movement and the law, legal literacy, document design and readability.

The material will be useful for writers, editors and graphic designers, as well as community groups, policy makers and government departments.

Refugee Resource File

A collection of newspaper clippings, Amnesty International and other human rights organization's reports, and pamphlets on various countries. These files have been compiled to assist lawyers and community workers who are conducting refugee claimants' cases.

Revised Federal Statutes

On December 12, 1988, the *Revised Statutes of Canada, 1985* came into force consolidating and updating the laws to the end of 1984. The last revision of the statutes had been in 1970. This revision is important because the federal government has published the statutes in two formats for the first time—a bound set and a looseleaf set.

To help librarians use the Revised Statutes, the Legal Resource Centre staff conducted training workshops throughout B.C. There have been 13 workshops conducted for 261 college, university and public librarians.

Workshops

The staff presented 28 workshops around the province attended by 537 librarians, Society staff, students, community workers and the general public.

Native Programs

For many natives, Canadian justice can seem like a foreign system, imposing a value system which is at odds with their own culture.

Native people face unusual legal problems and procedures by virtue of their unique constitutional relationship to the Canadian legal system. The Native Programs branch of the Legal Services Society works to ensure that the overall delivery of legal services is consistent with native people's needs.

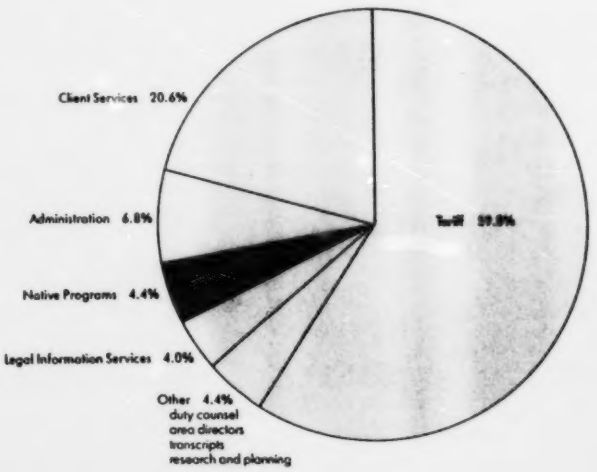
The Legal Services Society recognizes and supports native Indian community control and responsibility in the delivery of legal services to native people. It recognizes that services are best provided by the community, through local offices and local boards, with financial support from the Legal Services Society.

The offices provide services in the area of criminal, family and civil law, as well as duty counsel and area director services. The staff carry out a very active program of legal education through workshops and presentations in schools and at band levels.

The day-to-day work of the Native Programs Branch involves the following activities:

- funding community-based legal education projects
- funding six native community law offices and three legal programs located in friendship centres
- distributing information on resource materials and changes in the law to a mailing list of approximately 700 which includes all bands, tribal councils, native courtworkers, friendship centres, band social development workers, native justice coalition, native lawyers, native law students and native and non-native interested individuals
- participating in meetings and policy decisions with other Legal Services Society departments to ensure that a native perspective is represented in the Society
- developing native law materials on topics identified by native groups
- through fieldwork providing support and working with communities to give information and help with the development of legal projects
- acting as a resource in workshops requested by the Legal Services Society and by native and non-native community groups

For a complete listing of native community law offices and funded friendship centres, please see page 21 of the Annual Report.



Native Programs in the Legal Services Society.

1988-89 Highlights

Grants/Projects

- Forty-two requests were received for public legal education grants from Native communities. Funding grants made for the year totalled $79,000 (*see following page*).

Office News

L'AX GHELS

- The opening of L'ax Ghels Community Law Centre Society office in Terrace.
- Our Burns Lake native community law office extended duty counsel services to the community of Fraser Lake.
- The native community in the Fort St. James area has done the necessary community development work and has put forward a proposal to Native Programs for funding of a local native community law office. The goal is to open an office in April, 1990.
- Two native community law offices and the Gitksan- Wet'suwet'en Education Society have been working on the *Unlocking Aboriginal Justice* proposal. The proposal describes an innovative, comprehensive, three-year project designed to address the problems of native people who are in conflict with the justice system. The cultural strengths and systems of native people would be used for developing and implementing this project.
- The Carrier Sekani Tribal Council is developing the Family Court Counsel Project that will provide family law coverage to people of Carrier Sekani ancestry. The goal is to implement the program by 1990.
- The annual planning session this year included participation of a number of board members from native community law offices.

Publications

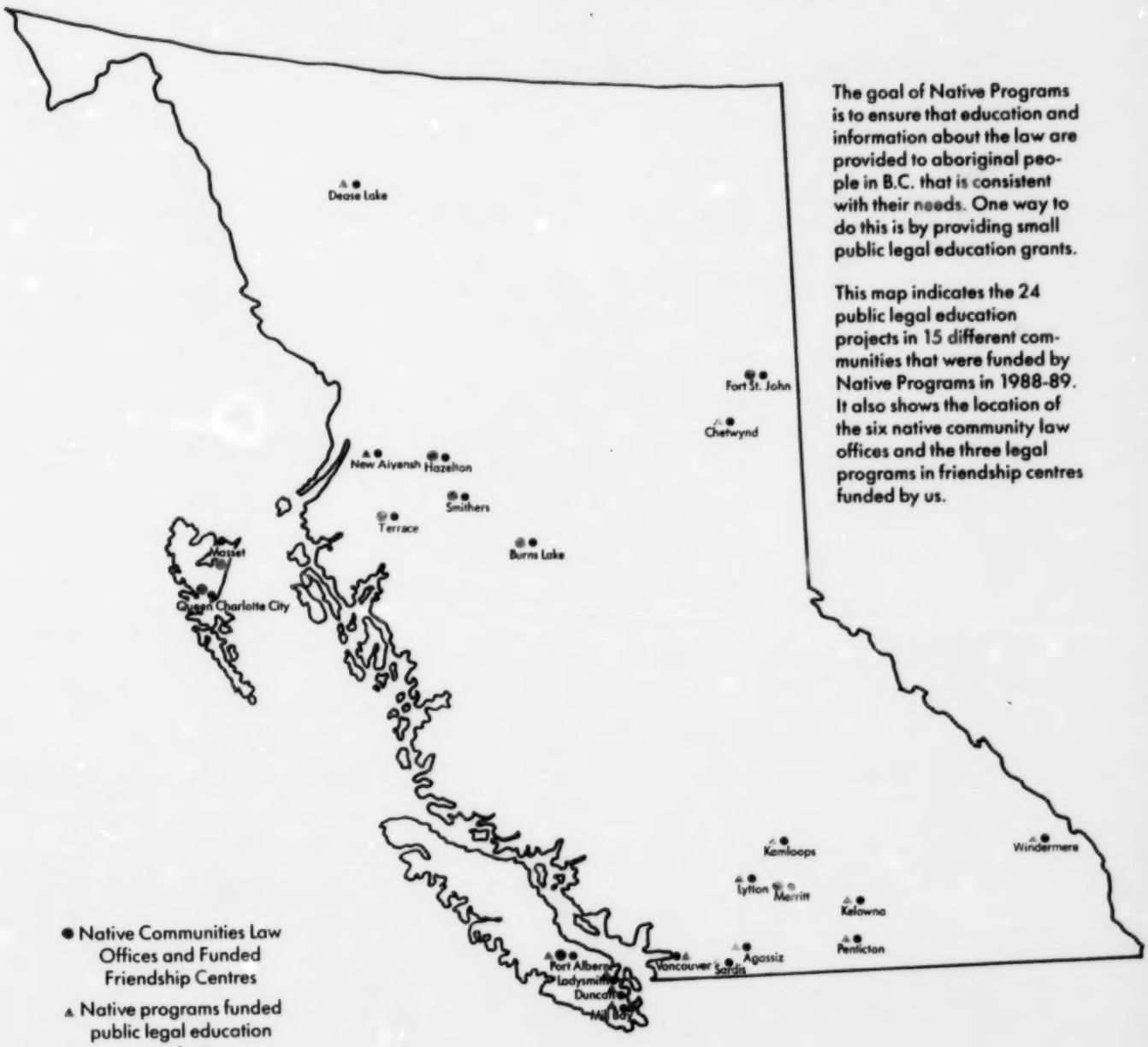
- Six native law handbooks were produced entitled:
  Debtor/Creditor Law on Reserve
  Labour Law on Reserve
  Funds for Housing on Reserve
  Indian Estates
  Land Use and Surrenders on Reserve
  Indian Land Holdings on Reserve

LAND USE ON RESERVES SURRENDERS & DESIGNATED LANDS
INDIAN ESTATES
FUNDS FOR HOUSING ON RESERVE
INDIAN LAND HOLDINGS ON RESERVE

Resource Development

- Developing information materials with I.C.B.C. about the benefits available under Part VII of the regulations. Native people need to know these insurance benefits are available and how to access them.
- Working with the Schools Program on development of Haida materials for use in Social Studies 9 classrooms.

Native Programs at work throughout B.C.



The goal of Native Programs is to ensure that education and information about the law are provided to aboriginal people in B.C. that is consistent with their needs. One way to do this is by providing small public legal education grants.

This map indicates the 24 public legal education projects in 15 different communities that were funded by Native Programs in 1988-89. It also shows the location of the six native community law offices and the three legal programs in friendship centres funded by us.

● Native Communities Law Offices and Funded Friendship Centres

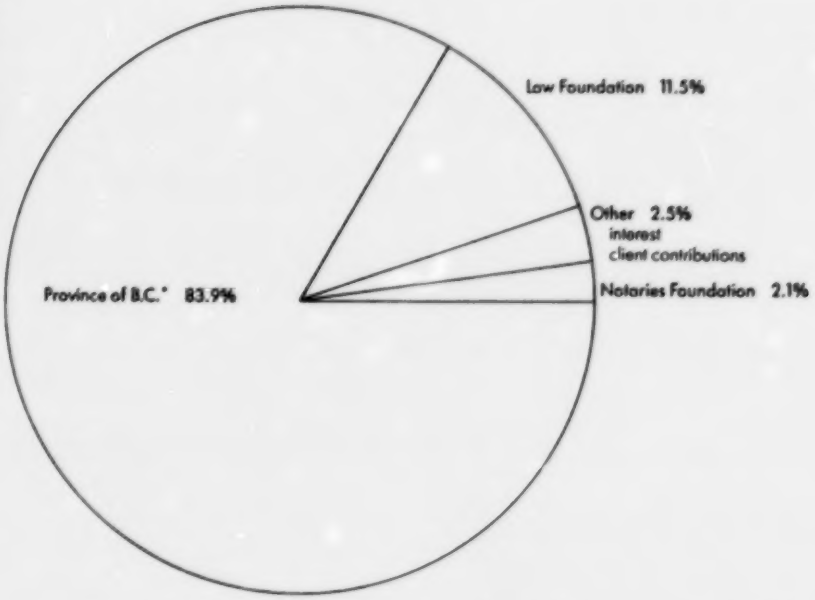
▲ Native programs funded public legal education projects

Financial Information

For the year ended March 31, 1989

Income

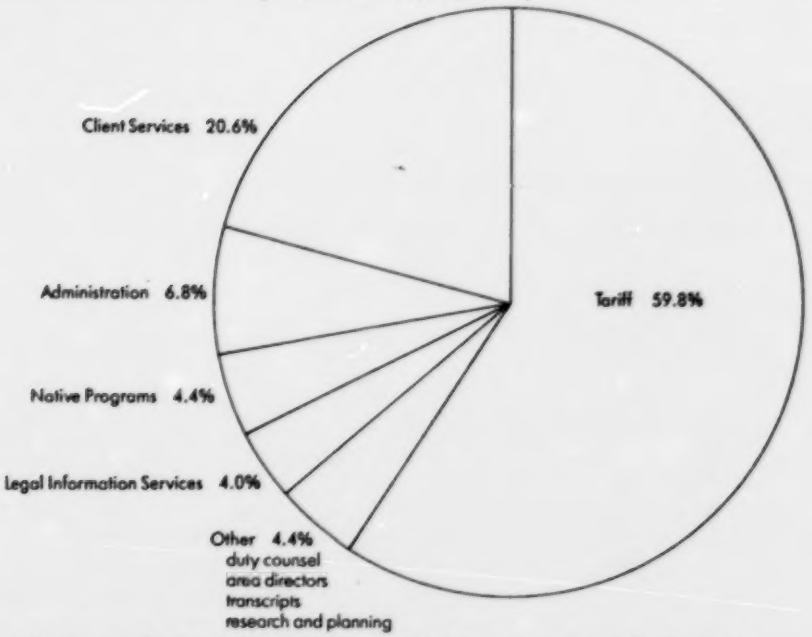
$26,131,408 *
(1987–1988 23,435,677 **)



* The Government of Canada provides approximately 50% of the funding for a number of legal aid services, through various cost-sharing agreements with the Province of B.C.

Expenses

$26,998,635
(1987–1988 22,812,607 **)



** These amounts are restated from last year to include certain costs paid by the province on our behalf. These costs are telephone, postage and audit costs which would otherwise be paid by the Legal Services Society.

Auditor's Report

To the Chairman and Members of the
Legal Services Society, and

To the Attorney General,
Province of British Columbia

I have examined the balance sheet of the Legal Services Society as at March 31, 1989 and the statements of income and expenditures and accumulated income over expenditures for the year then ended. My examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such tests and other procedures as I considered necessary in the circumstances.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Society as at March 31, 1989 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

Victoria, British Columbia
May 25, 1989

George L. Morfitt, F.C.A.
Auditor General

Legal Services Society

Balance Sheet

As at March 31, 1989

ASSETS	1989	1988
Cash and term deposits	$5,720,933	$5,173,536
Accounts receivable — related parties	224,259	179,833
Accounts receivable — other	278,877	75,314
Prepaid expenses	72,298	72,804
	$6,296,367	$5,501,487
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable — general	$ 495,778	$ 360,210
Accounts payable — tariff	3,202,746	3,460,079
Professional staff benefit plan	272,242	247,323
Deferred income (note 5)	1,758,953	—
	5,729,719	4,067,612
ACCUMULATED INCOME OVER EXPENDITURES		
Reserve for tariff expenditures	566,648	1,433,875
	$6,296,367	$5,501,487

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Approved by the Board:

M. McEwan
Chairperson

W. Kitchen
Vice-Chairperson

Legal Services Society

Statement of Income and Expenditures

For the Year Ended March 31, 1989

	1989	1988
INCOME		
Grants		
Province of British Columbia	$21,685,243	$19,427,467
Law Foundation	3,000,000	3,000,000
Notary Foundation	541,844	199,796
	25,227,087	22,627,263
Other Income		
Interest	545,611	452,117
Legal costs recovered from clients	96,223	81,879
Publications	20,767	22,732
Miscellaneous	13,019	5,595
Donated services	228,701	246,091
	904,321	808,414
	26,131,408	23,435,677
EXPENDITURES		
Area directors	137,412	104,700
Board expenses	28,680	27,124
Computer	229,455	132,909
Duty counsel	690,904	647,799
Grants and contracted services	2,582,884	2,358,761
Libraries	119,549	106,583
Miscellaneous	101,596	83,025
Office	805,322	794,671
Premises	496,652	437,610
Publications	83,385	81,756
Salaries and benefits	4,986,069	4,766,430
Tariffs	16,204,850	12,859,432
Transcripts	302,630	209,015
Travel	229,247	202,792
	26,998,635	22,812,607
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR	$ <867,227>	$ 623,070

Legal Services Society

Statement of Accumulated Income Over Expenditures

For the Year Ended March 31, 1989

UNAPPROPRIATED ACCUMULATED INCOME OVER EXPENDITURES <ACCUMULATED EXPENDITURES OVER INCOME>	1989	1988
Balance — beginning of year	$ —	$ 810,805
Excess of income over expenditures	<867,227>	623,070
	<867,227>	1,433,875
Reserve for tariff expenditures	<867,227>	1,433,875
Balance - end of year	—	—
RESERVE FOR TARIFF EXPENDITURES		
Balance - beginning of year	1,433,875	—
Appropriated during the year	<867,227>	1,433,875
Balance - end of year	566,648	1,433,875
ACCUMULATED INCOME OVER EXPENDITURES	$ 566,648	$1,433,875

Legal Services Society

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended March 31, 1989

1. Organizational objectives

Under the Legal Services Society Act the objects of the Society are to ensure that:

(a) services ordinarily provided by a lawyer are afforded to individuals who would not otherwise receive them because of financial or other reasons; and

(b) education, advice and information about law are provided for the people of British Columbia.

2. Significant accounting policies

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for non-profit organizations.

Furniture and equipment are recorded as operating expenditures at the time of acquisition.

Donated services are recorded at fair value.

3. Fixed assets

Furniture and equipment purchased and expensed during the year amounted to $184,492 (1988 - $61,569).

4. Donated Services

The Province pays certain telephone and postage costs of the Society and provides audit services. In 1989, these costs amounted to $228,701 (1988 - $246,091).

5. Deferred income

The grant from the Province of British Columbia is payable in twelve equal instalments. The deferred income is the April 1989 grant payment, which was received before the end of the current fiscal year.

6. Related parties

In 1989, the Society received 84% (1988 - 84%) of its income from the Province of British Columbia and 12% (1988 - 13%) of its income from the Law Foundation of British Columbia. The Society depends on funding from these two sources for the continuance of its operations.

Under cost sharing agreements approximately 50% of the Society's expenditures on legal aid are recoverable by the Province of British Columbia from the Government of Canada.

7. Commitments

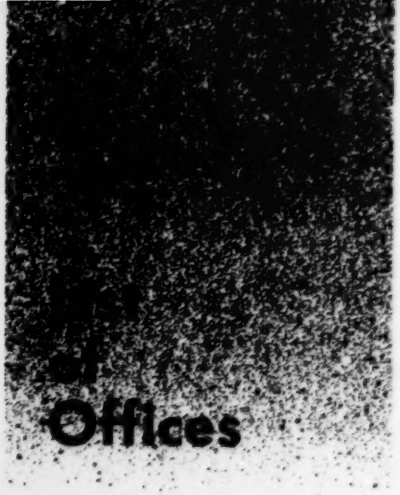
The Society has the following commitments under long-term leases for its office premises:

1990	$244,226
1991	195,979
1992	146,861
1993	49,470
1994	40,463
	$676,999

The Society's head office premises are provided at a reduced rent under an agreement between the City of Vancouver and Imbrook Properties Limited. The difference between the market value of the rent and the rent paid is approximately $228,000 a year. These premises are provided under an agreement that expires on May 31, 1999.

8. Comparative figures

Certain of the 1988 figures have been restated to conform with the financial statement presentation adopted in 1989. These restatements have no effect on the accumulated income over expenditures.



Legal Services Society Branch Offices

Burnaby
344-5021 Kingsway
V5H 4A5 437-4432

Campbell River
208-1040 Shoppers Row
V9W 2C6 287-9521

Chilliwack
4-46918 Yale Road
V6P 2P1 792-7264

Dawson Creek
1101-B-103rd Avenue
V1G 2G8 782-5911/2

Fort St. John
9911-104th Avenue
V1J 6B9 785-5674/5

Kamloops Regional Law Centre
510-175 2nd Avenue
V2C 5W1 374-7777

Kelowna
1262 St. Paul Street
V1Y 2C9 763-8804

Nanaimo
Upper Floor
10 Esplanade
V9R 4Y7 755-2550

Nelson
550 Stanley Street
V1L 1N2 352-3147

Prince George
302-1488 Fourth Avenue
V2L 4Y2 562-4445

Prince Rupert
737 West 2nd Avenue
V8J 1H4 627-1364

Surrey
102, 15225-104th Avenue
V3R 6Y8 584-8535

Vancouver
No. 2-195 Alexander Street
V6A 1N3 687-1831

Williams Lake
208-197 North 2nd Avenue
V2G 1Z5 392-2941

Prison Legal Services
2406 Montrose Avenue
Abbotsford
V2S 3S9 853-8712

Community Law Offices

Abbotsford Community Services Society
2406 Montrose Avenue
V2S 3S9 859-2755
or toll free 530-3514

Fort Nelson Paralegal Project
Bag 399
V0C 1R0 774-6707

Westminster Community Legal Services Society
805-12th Street
V3M 4K2 524-0381

Penticton Legal Services
Suite 103-304 Martin St.
V2A 5K4 493-0210

Powell River Legal Services
7053 Glacier Street
V8A 5J7 485-9871

Quesnel Human Rights & Civil Liberties Association
283 Barlow Avenue
V2J 2B9 992-8391

The Law Centre Association of Victoria
3rd Floor-1221 Broad Street
V8W 2A4 388-4516

Native Communities Law Offices and Funded Friendship Centres

Burns Lake Yinkadinee Keyakh Law Centre
412 Government Street
V0J 1E0 692-7534

Fort St. John Indian Friendship Centre
10208-95th Avenue
V1J 1J2 785-8566

Haida Counselling & Legal Assistance Society
P.O. Box 37 Skidegate Village
Queen Charlotte City, B.C.
V0T 1S0 559-8811
and
P.O. Box 130 Block N, Lot 7
Masset Reserve #1
Masset, B.C.
V0T 1M0 626-3925

L'ax-Ghels Community Law Centre
3313 Kalum Street
Terrace, B.C.
V8G 2N7 635-2133

Nicola Valley Native Community Legal Assistance Society
1955 Quilchena Avenue
Bag 4400
Merritt, B.C.
V0K 2B0 378-6112

Port Alberni Friendship Centre
3555-4th Avenue
V9Y 4H3 723-8281

Note: Addresses are as of November 1, 1989. For current addresses, consult your phone book.

Smithers Indian Friendship Centre
1235 Main Street
Box 2118
V0J 2N0 847-2600

Upper Skeena Counselling & Legal Assistance Society
P.O. Box 130
Omenica Street
Hazelton, B.C.
V0J 1Y0 842-5218

Area Directors

Abbotsford
Chris Maddock
Barrister & Solicitor
2406 Montrose Avenue
Abbotsford, B.C.
V2S 3S9 859-2755

Burns Lake
Warren Chapman
Barrister & Solicitor
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Delta
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Barrister & Solicitor
212 - 9321 120th Street
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Duncan
Yvonne Pink
Barrister & Solicitor
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Beverly Hall
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